

Written testimony concerning dirt bikes and ATV's in New Haven February 20, 2013

We have had a very serious nuisance problem in New Haven with dirt bikes and ATV's since at least 2002. They congregate in groups on the streets and in isolated areas in the city to race each other at high speed and to perform stunts for each other.

In my neighborhood, they congregate in a cul-de-sac in what they perceive as an industrial neighborhood, on Connecticut Avenue. It is actually a residential neighborhood adjacent to the New Haven harbor and adjacent to a city park, East Shore Park.

When police respond to our calls, they escape through the City Park at high speeds and race through our streets, only to return a short while later. They apparently know that the Police cannot pursue them. Often, the Police cannot respond for hours, and we have to endure the very high volume of their racing until they are chased away, which is only a very temporary solution. They congregate and race on a daily basis, with impunity.

They attract other motorcycles when they congregate, such as legal street bikes, and the racing that goes on also even involves cars sometimes. The noise level is very high and can be heard at least 5 blocks away, being equivalent to the noise level of a racetrack. The video surveillance cameras of the city have not deterred them at all.

The groups also litter when they congregate, and I have collected photographic evidence of alcohol and other substance abuse. They also pollute when they discard oil and racing fuel mixes, which they mix right in the back of the pickup trucks that they use to bring in the dirt bikes that they don't ride in. I have collected whole trash bags of their garbage.

They have shown aggressive behavior towards me on several occasions, once when my Alderman Al Paolillo was present, another time by racing behind me at high speed. They often circulate in groups of up to 7 or 8 dirt bikes and ATV's, and some of them wear masks to conceal their identity. I have seen them racing as a gang down Main St. in East Haven, in East Rock, and in Fair Haven as well.

PLEASE address the lawlessness and nuisance created by the owners of the dirt bikes and ATV's. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Samuel M. Sigg